

MUSEUM THEATRE GUIDE

DEAR FRIEND: THE CIVIL WAR DIARIES OF ANNIE MCCARROLL STARLING

OVERVIEW

Museum theatre characters bring exhibit themes to life through dramatic presentations based on the lives of Kentuckians from all walks of life. In *Dear Friend* a teenage girl in Christian County, Kentucky, transports students back to the turbulent Civil War years. Adapted by actress Sarah Gillig from Annie McCarroll's actual diaries, the fifteen-minute-long performance covers the years 1861-64. A museum staff member is on hand to introduce the play and conduct a discussion after it ends.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Topics

- The Civil War in Kentucky
- Coming of age in the mid-1800s
- The nineteenth century

Core Content Connections

- Historical Perspective: Primary sources . . . are essential tools in the study and interpretation of history (SS-E, M-5.1.2)
- Historical Perspective: The study of U.S. history is categorized into broad historical periods and eras (SS-E-5.2.4)
- Historical Perspective: Political, social, economic, and cultural differences among sections of the U.S. resulted in the American Civil War (SS-M-5.2.4)

BACKGROUND

History

Annie Leslie McCarroll (February 29, 1844-August 21, 1932) began her journals as a seventeen-year-old at the outset of the Civil War. She was the daughter of Hopkinsville physician and surgeon John McCarroll and Eliza Kelly McCarroll. The family was strongly pro-Union and did not own slaves.

Christian Countians were very divided, with slave-owning farmers in the southern part of the county sympathizing with the Confederates and citizens of Hopkinsville and to the north supporting the Union. The county was further divided by being the home of

Union General James S. Jackson and the birthplace of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate states.

In her diary Annie recounts local war news on numerous instances and describes the comings and goings of various armies through southern Kentucky. Later on, however, the diaries show little concern for the politics of the day and mostly provide short commentaries about the weather and family information.

Plot

Pulled directly from Annie's diaries, the play tells how Annie comes of age during the Civil War years. In each of four "scenes" the actress sets the stage by naming the new year, then "writing" in her diary about the effects of the war on her family, friends, and community. She notes military victories and defeats and describes the brief "siege" of Hopkinsville as well as telling of departing friends and newfound romances.

Character

The play is performed by one actress, who portrays Annie McCarroll, the writer of the diary. In many ways, Annie is a typical teenager, aware of the events around her but equally involved in the social and emotional upheavals of young adulthood.

Setting and costumes

Dear Friend is set at Annie's home in Hopkinsville, Christian County, Kentucky. The front porch of the house in the Civil War section of *A Kentucky Journey* provides a stage for the piece. Annie's costume is a typical "day" dress from the Civil War era.

Script and performance style

Actress Sarah Gillig wrote the script. It is in the form of a dramatic monologue, with the actress addressing her diary throughout the play.

IN THE MUSEUM

When they arrive in the performance area, students will be asked to sit on the floor. (Limited seating is

available for students with special needs and adults.) A museum staff member will provide a brief introduction to the play. After the performance, the actor will come out of character to participate in a follow-up discussion with the audience.

We rely on teachers and chaperones to make sure students behave well during performances, and we reserve the right to ask disruptive students or classes to leave.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

- Show respect for the performers and other museum guests by not talking.
- Do not use recording devices, cameras, or laser-pointers during the performance.
- Do not touch or talk with performers unless instructed or encouraged to do so.

RESOURCES

The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities by Janis Herbert ((Chicago, 1999)—Text, illustrations from period sources, and instructions for activities from drilling to cooking.

The Civil War in Kentucky: Battle for the Bluegrass State, edited by Kent Brown (Conshohocken, Pa.)—A collection of essays about aspects of the war in Kentucky.

The Civil War in Kentucky by Lowell Harrison (Lexington, Ky., 1975)—A short, easy-to-read overview.

. . . *If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War* by Kay Moore (New York, 1994)—An illustrated

children's book about everyday life in the north and south during the war.

Kentucky and the Civil War EdWeb Resources—A web site with historical information, primary sources, a listing of Civil War resources from KET, and links to other sites.

<http://www.ket.org/content/civilwar/>

Kentucky Civil War Preservation Program—A web site of links to Civil War sites around the state.

<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/civil.html>

Kentucky's Civil War Monuments—A web site including information about Civil War monuments and historic sites in western Kentucky and ideas for bringing them to life in the classroom.

<http://wky.thinkwestkentucky.com/monuments/Kymonuments.htm>

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RESOURCES

KENTUCKY CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

April 1861

Kentucky's legislature calls a border-state convention for May 27 in Frankfort. The United States secretary of war requests Governor Magoffin to furnish Kentucky troops for service in the U.S. Army. The Confederate secretary of war requests Kentucky troops for service in the Confederate army. Magoffin refuses both.

May 1861

Kentucky officially declares its "strict neutrality."

Summer 1861

Many Kentuckians flee to neighboring states to enlist in the army of their choice. Elections during the "neutral" period give Unionists control of state government. Public opinion also favors Unionism.

August 13, 1861

In violation of Kentucky's declared neutrality, Major General William Nelson establishes Camp Dick Robinson in Garrard County to enlist Kentuckians for service in the Union army.

September 1861

Kentucky's neutrality ends when Confederate forces seize Columbus and the Union seizes Paducah.

September 18, 1861

Confederate troops under Brigadier General Simon Bolivar Buckner occupy Bowling Green.

September 19, 1861

A detachment of Confederates from Brigadier General Felix K. Zollicoffer's command takes Barbourville and closes Union Camp Andrew Johnson.

October 21, 1861

The Union wins its first Kentucky victory when forces under Brigadier General Albin F. Schoepf resist Zollicoffer's assault at the Battle of Wildcat Mountain.

November 7, 1861

Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant gains valuable experience at the Battle of Belmont, Missouri, where he forfeits a complete victory when the Confederates rally while his men are looting their camp.

November 18-20, 1861

Representatives from 61 Kentucky counties meet at Russellville and form the "Provisional" Confederate government of Kentucky. George W. Johnson is chosen governor and Bowling Green is named the capital.

December 10, 1861

Confederate Congress admits Kentucky to the Confederate States of America.

December 17, 1861

A clash occurs at Rowlett's Station near Woodsonville when Confederate troops attack a regiment of Union infantry guarding a Green River railroad bridge.

December 28, 1861

A Confederate scouting party under Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest defeats a Union patrol led by Major Eli Murray at the Battle of Sacramento.

January 10, 1862

Both sides claim victory when Union Colonel James Garfield's army encounters troops led by Confederate Brigadier General Humphrey Marshall at the Battle of Middle Creek. The Confederates withdraw to Virginia, leaving eastern Kentucky in U.S. possession.

January 19, 1862

Felix Zollicoffer dies in the decisive Confederate defeat at the Battle of Mill Springs. The Rebel offensive fails in eastern Kentucky.

February 1862

Union gunboats under Ulysses S. Grant join with land forces to capture the Cumberland and Tennessee River forts of Donelson and Henry, forcing General Albert Sidney Johnston's rebel army to withdraw from Bowling Green.

June 1, 1862

Brigadier General Jeremiah T. Boyle becomes Union commander in Kentucky and begins political arrests, expulsions from the state, and military interference in courts and elections.

July 9, 1862

Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan, Confederate cavalry leader, routs U.S. forces at Tompkinsville. Panic ensues in many small towns and in Louisville and Cincinnati.

July 17, 1862

Morgan's cavalry defeats Union and Home Guard forces in the Battle of Cynthiana and returns to Tennessee.

August 29-30, 1862

Major General Edmund Kirby Smith trounces Union forces at Richmond, winning one of the most complete Confederate victories in the Civil War.

September 16-17, 1862

After repelling sharp attacks, Union Colonel John T. Wilder surrenders the garrison at Munfordville to Confederate forces under General Braxton Bragg.

September 27, 1862

In an effort to threaten Cincinnati, Confederate Colonel Basil Duke narrowly defeats a persistent Home Guard at the Battle of Augusta but is forced to retreat southward.

October 8, 1862

Confederate forces under Braxton Bragg confront Union troops commanded by Major General Don Carlos Buell at Perryville in the largest Civil War battle in the commonwealth. The Confederates withdraw, ending their invasion of the state.

January 1, 1863

President Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves held in Confederate states.

March 2, 1863

The Kentucky legislature condemns the Emancipation Proclamation, prohibits freed slaves from entering the state, and orders the arrest of slaves claiming to be free.

July 8, 1863

Kentucky officials protest the enrollment of free blacks into the United States Army. Federal authorities temporarily suspend black enlistment.

July 31, 1863

Union Major General Ambrose Burnside declares martial law in Kentucky. The use of military courts and the jailing of suspected southern sympathizers lead Kentucky citizens to feel that their freedom is threatened.

January 4, 1864

Kentucky Governor Bramlette issues a proclamation requesting the U.S. military to hold hostage five

southern sympathizers for every loyal citizen abducted by guerrillas.

February 29, 1864

The Federal government begins enrollment (a census preliminary to recruitment) of Kentucky blacks. The state's governor and a prominent leader of a Union regiment protest. They are later arrested.

March 1864

When Federal recruiting of Kentucky blacks begins in earnest, enslaved and free black men pour into Camp Nelson in Jessamine County to enlist in the Union army. The camp will become the largest recruiting and training center for black troops in Kentucky and one of the largest in the nation. It will also house and educate thousands of African American soldiers' family members.

June 8, 1864

During John Hunt Morgan's last Kentucky raid, some of his soldiers loot Mount Sterling, taking \$72,000 from the bank.

June 11-12, 1864

After burning part of the town and capturing many prisoners, Morgan's forces are defeated at Cynthiana by Brigadier General Stephen G. Burbridge.

July 16, 1864

Burbridge orders four rebel sympathizers shot for every Union citizen killed by guerrillas.

November 8, 1864

Kentuckians favor George B. McClellan over President Lincoln in the presidential election by a margin of over two to one.

February 23-24, 1865

The Kentucky legislature refuses to ratify the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

1865

Long before the end of the war, many Kentuckians who supported the Union are disenchanted with a Federal government that has treated the state like a conquered enemy. These feelings of animosity and a deep-felt identification with the South lead many to join Confederate sympathizers in adopting the "Lost Cause." This mentality persists for many years, causing some observers to note that Kentucky joined the Confederacy after the war.

RESOURCES

CIVIL WAR GLOSSARY

Artillery—Weapons for discharging missiles

Camp—The area where temporary military headquarters and shelters are erected

Cavalry—Soldiers on horseback

Confederate—Of or relating to the Confederate States of America, or the South

Confederates—Troops in the Confederate armed forces

Conscript—To enroll into military service by compulsion or force

Consigned—Given over into another's care

Draft—To enroll into military service by compulsion or force

Federal—Of or relating to the United States of America, or the North

Federals—Troops in the Union armed forces

Guard house—Jail

Rebel—Nickname for Confederate troops and supporters who rebelled against the Federal government

Regiment—A military unit consisting of smaller divisions

Report of cannons—The sound of cannons being fired

Secession—Formal withdrawal from an organization or nation; also used as an adjective interchangeably with “Confederate” or “Southern”

Stars and Stripes—Nickname for the American flag

Subjugated—Forced to submit to control or governance

Troops—Soldiers

Union—The United States government or army; also used to describe U.S., or northern, troops

Volleys of musketry—Rounds of ammunition fired from a high-caliber shoulder firearm carried by a soldier

Yankee—Nickname for northern troops; used as a noun and an adjective

